

TOMMY D. FONDREN

COTTON BOARD
LORENZO, TEXAS 79349

June 8, 2001

Whitney Rick, Chief
Research and Promotion Staff,
Cotton Program, AMS
USDA, Stop 0224
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 2641-S South Building
Washington DC 20250-0224



Dear Ms. Rick,

Your request for comments published in the Federal Register for the Cotton Research and Promotion Program, March 26, 2001, volume 66, number 58, page 16440, we encourage your attention to Amendment Number 5 of the Amendments of 1990.

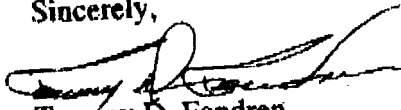
We believe a referendum would be in order at this time to rescind the mandatory payment provisions of The Act. Cotton Board, Cotton, Inc., and Cotton producer groups currently indicate the program has an extremely high approval rating by the public. We stress mandatory reflects a harsh, negative for an entity with worldwide recognition and functions.

Programs that function for and in the best interest of cotton producers should welcome the removal of the dictatorial description mandatory. Today the program reflects producers are forced to pay, in a nation built on freedoms.

We are concerned the media that AMS targets for press releases doesn't function as intended. We find a large number of grass root producers are being missed. Targeted, select advertising may influence this concern.

We urge the Secretary to order a referendum on this important cotton producer issue.

Sincerely,


Tommy D. Fondren
TDF/trs